

WHAT TO WEAR??

People have been asking this question for thousands of years

What do you wear? What clothes do you go to school in, play in, work in, go somewhere special in? How are your clothes different from or the same as other people's clothes? Why are they different?

Do you know who made your clothes? Or where were they made?

What do your clothes do for you?

Humans invented clothes thousands of years ago to protect their bodies from cold, heat, rain, snow, insects, animals, weapons, and other dangers.

At first, people used animal skins and plant fibers for their clothes. Much later, people learned to weave cloth from wool fibers like cotton and linen. But it was a long, hard process to make cloth by hand! When factories began making cloth, people could make their own clothes from this fabric, or they could buy their clothes ready-made.

Throughout most of history, clothing has done more than just protect the wearer. Clothing also sends messages about the person wearing it. A carpenter wears different clothes than a businesswoman wears. A Catholic priest wears different clothes than a Mormon bishop. A snowboarder wears different clothes than a librarian.

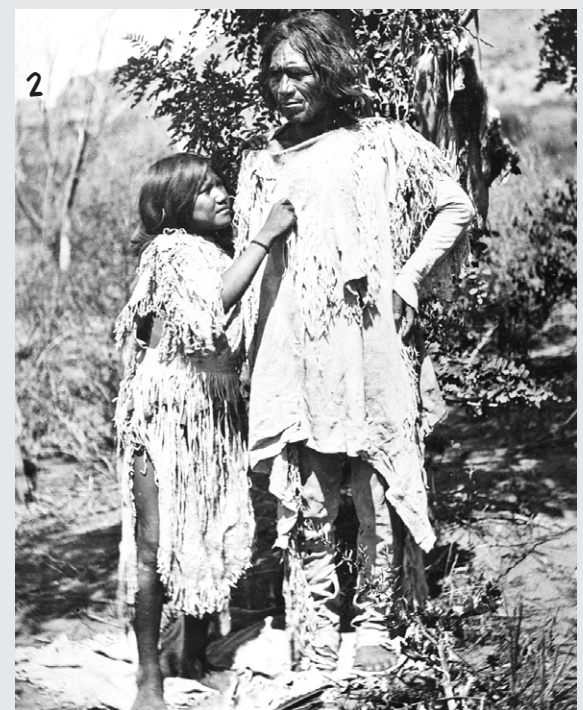
This was true in Utah history too. Clothes told a lot. Was the family rich or poor? Where did they live? Did they make their own clothes? How did they spend their time?

Before the railroad linked Utah with the rest of the country in 1869, most people did not have storebought clothes.

Here are some kids from the past wearing clothes in Utah. How are these clothes different from yours? Can you guess about when these pictures were taken?



1. Do you think these clothes are homemade or storebought? When was this picture taken, around 1870, 1920, or 1970?



2. What are these clothes made of? This Paiute girl and her father lived about the same time as the kids up here. Compare their clothes. Why are they different?



3. Is this 2-year-old a boy or girl? From a rich family or poor family? Homemade or store-bought clothes?

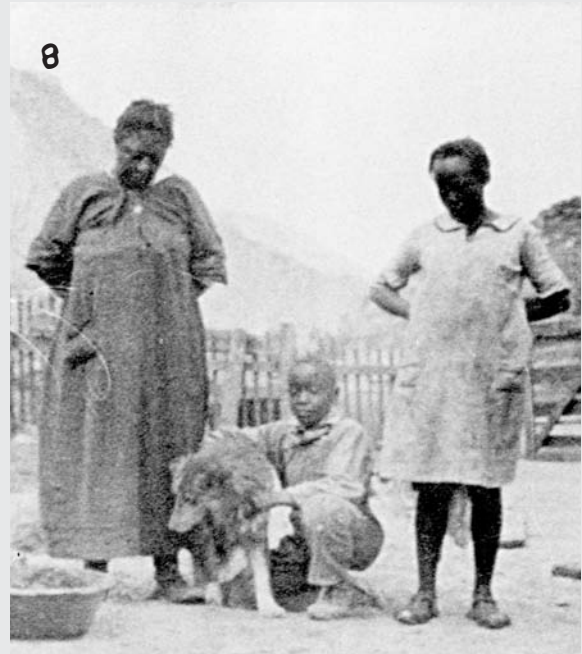


4. Compare these little kids with the one to the left. These kids are all dressed up, too, but their clothes sure look different than the clothes this kid is wearing. When do you think the picture above was taken?

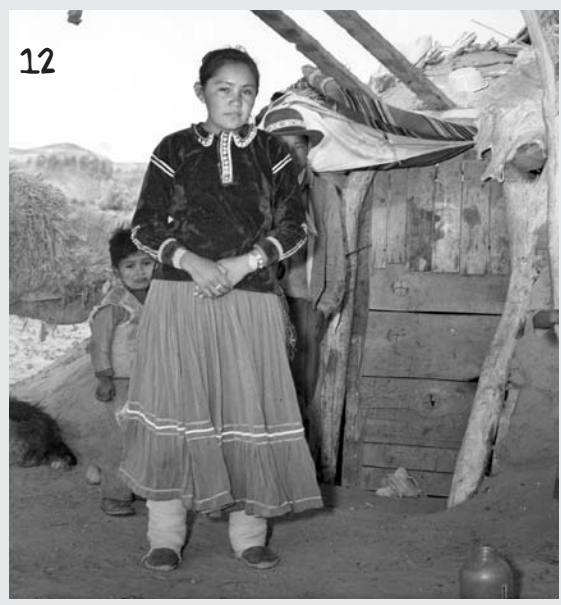
HANDS-ON
HISTORY FOR
KIDS AND
OTHER
ADVENTURERS



5, 6, and 7.
Everybody used to wear hats a lot more than they do now. Women's hats could get quite fancy. When do you think these photos were taken?



8, 9, 10, and 11. All of these photos were probably taken in the 1920s. Why are the clothes different? What do the clothes tell you about the lives of these people? Which people may have had more money?



12. Jennie, age 16, made her own outfit at the Episcopal St. Christopher's Mission near Bluff, Utah. It has a heavy velvet jacket and 14 petticoats! This was in around 1950—in the summer! What do you wear in the summer?

A FEW INTERESTING FACTS:

1. These clothes look homemade to us.
2. The dad's name was Mo-kwi-uk. We don't know the girl's name.
3. This is a boy! *And* he grew up on be a U.S. Senator. His name was Elbert D. Thomas. This picture was taken in 1885.
4. This birthday party happened in 1944.
5. Probably the 1890s.
6. Early 1900s. This girl's name was Afton Love.
7. Also early 1900s.
8. This family lived in Carbon County. The father worked in a coal mine. But he was killed in a mining accident shortly before this picture was taken.
9. These girls lived in the small town of Rockville.
10. This picnic took place near Ogden.
11. It was probably the late 1920s when this couple posed. Dresses had gotten a lot shorter and easier to make in the "flapper" era, so now middle-class women could copy upper-class women.
12. Navajos began to wear this kind of dress in the late 1800s. Before that, they wore clothes made from woven blankets. And before that, they wore clothes made from animal skins. Today, traditional outfits like this one are worn mostly by the elders and for special occasions.